

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION**

Name and address of applicant: Nilson Enterprises Inc
1505 11th St. S.W.
Great Falls, MT 59404

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Cascade

Legal description: Dam is in T20N R7E Sec 32, SE ¼ of SW ¼ (Pond #4)
Pond impounded into T19N R7E S5, NW 1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Unnamed tributary to Big Willow Creek

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe)

Yes, The pond has stock water rights that were filed for in 1982.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

All these species are common in Belt Creek drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Westslope cutthroat trout exist, but only in isolated areas above waterfall barriers in the Belt Creek drainage.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations: None Minor Major

Comments: If these fish escaped and migrated upstream in Belt Creek Drainage they could hybridize or compete with westslope cutthroat trout. However, the chances of them successfully reaching areas with cutthroat trout are limited.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation?

None Minor Major

Comments: No other fish exist in the pond.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction? None Minor Major

Comments: Some aquatic invertebrates may be consumed.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location: None Minor Major

Comments:

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? Yes.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? No.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action). Do not stock.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

Species restrictions.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction: None.

List all agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction: None.

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? YES/NO? If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

No. Impacts expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: Travis Horton

Date: 5/18/04